



CITY OF TUCSON



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NEWS RELEASE

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Date: 01/29/2013
TDD: 791-2639

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE REQUESTED CUSTODIAL INTERFERENCE CASE

*****UPDATE – JUNE 20, 2013*****

On June 20, 2013, additional arrests were made relating to the custodial interference investigation, which initiated in November 2012 and involved the disappearance of Luis Palacio with his 2-year old daughter, Caroline Oddo. It should be noted that United States Marshal's Service personnel assisted with locating Caroline Oddo in March 2013. She and Estella Lovemore were with Daniella Lovemore when she was apprehended at a border crossing between the United States and Mexico. Since that time, the investigators have uncovered details regarding persons who assisted Mr. Palacio in his flight from Tucson as well as during the time that he retained custody of his daughter. Working in collaboration with personnel from the Marana Police Department as well as the United States Marshal's Service, Virginia Palacio (43-years old, mother of Luis Palacio), Leticia Romero (62-years old, grandmother of Luis Palacio), and Jose Romero (68-years old, grandfather of Luis Palacio), were all located on June 20, 2013. They were arrested in conjunction with this investigation. Virginia Palacio and Leticia Romero were each charged with 1 count of Custodial Interference (Class 4 Felony) and 1 count of Hindering Prosecution in the First Degree (Class 5 Felony). Jose Romero was charged with 1 count of Hindering Prosecution in the First Degree (Class 5 Felony). They were transported and booked into the Pima County Jail. Their booking photographs are not yet available. Luis Palacio has not yet been located, and the investigation continues.

Sergeant Maria Hawke – June 20, 2013

In light of a recent incident, which is under investigation by the Marana Police Department, attention has been brought to another investigation that is being conducted by members of the Tucson Police Department involving some of the same individuals. In late November 2012, family members of Luis Palacio, 25-years old, initiated a report with the Tucson Police Department regarding his disappearance with his daughter, Caroline Oddo, now approximately 2-years old. At the time, it was believed that Mr. Palacio had left Tucson, as he left a note saying that he would be leaving out of state. A police report was taken and detectives began investigating the case, following many leads. Since the initial report in November of 2012, numerous attempts to locate Mr. Palacio have been made. However, none were successful. The detectives obtained a warrant, charging Mr. Palacio with 1 count of Custodial Interference, for his arrest. The efforts to locate Mr. Palacio and Caroline in the Tucson area continued, even though it was believed that he might have left the area.

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For accommodations; materials in accessible formats; foreign language interpreters; and/or materials in a language other than English, please contact the Tucson Police Department Public Information Office at (520) 791-4852 or (520) 791-2639 for TDD at least five (5) business days in advance. Para arreglos; materiales en formatos accesibles; interpretes de idioma extranjero; y/o materiales en otro idioma que no sea inglés, por favor comunicarse al Departamento de la Policía de Tucson a la sección de Información Pública al (520) 791-4852 o (520) 791-2639 para TDD por lo menos con cinco (5) días hábiles de anticipación.

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It should be noted that as Mr. Palacio is Caroline's father and still married to her mother, there was no restriction in place preventing him from having custody of his daughter. Mr. Palacio and his wife, Caroline's mother, have been estranged for several months, but had a verbal agreement regarding custody/visitation for each of them with their daughter. The issue of custodial interference arose when Mr. Palacio failed to return Caroline to her mother under their normal custody/visitation agreement, and as of yet has not returned Caroline since late November of 2012. There is no indication that Caroline is in danger at this time.

On January 27, 2013, the Marana Police Department initiated an investigation regarding a child, Estella Lovemore (approximately 10 months old). During the course of a family gathering, Estella's mother took her and disappeared. At the time, Estella was under the care and custody of Child Protective Services. As such, there was a restriction in place, which prevented her mother from having custody of her. Mr. Palacio was named as a "person of interest" in the investigation surrounding the disappearance of Estella and her mother due to the fact that he was believed to have a romantic relationship with Estella's mother. The circumstances under the Marana Police Department investigation differ from those under the Tucson Police Department investigation due to the fact that Mr. Palacio was not restricted from having custody of his daughter, while custody restrictions were in place regarding Estella's mother.

As a result of the Marana Police Department investigation, the Tucson Police Department believes that Mr. Palacio may have returned to the Tucson area with Caroline. We continue searching for both Mr. Palacio and Caroline, and will also assist with search efforts regarding Estella and her mother. We ask that anyone who may have knowledge of Mr. Palacio's whereabouts to please call 911 or 88-Crime as soon as possible. A booking photograph of Mr. Palacio as well as a photograph of Caroline are included below.



Luis Palacio



Caroline Oddo

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